**How does John Steinbeck show his thinking that killing is acceptable?**

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The novel, Of Mice and Men, shows how people were lenient about some killing at 1930s. In the novel, Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck, the author shows his thinking through the characters in the novel. Some Characters, such as Slim, Carlson, and Curley reflect the author’s thinking that killing is acceptable.

Slim is one of the characters who think some killing, which can protect others, is acceptable. “Nine of’em. I drowned four of 'em right off. She couldn't feed that many." (p.35) Slim killed 4 puppies to protect mother dog and other 5 puppies. 4 of them and every other puppies including those four could be harmful because their mother couldn’t feed that much, and the puppies also could die because they couldn’t eat that much as they need. Thus, Slim killed 4 puppies at night. This shows that Slim accepts killing which can protect others. To not harm the mother dog and other 5 puppies, 4 puppies were sacrificed. By sacrificing small number, everyone else can survive. Therefore, Slim didn’t stop at thinking about killing them, he eventually killed puppies. Through Slim’s behavior, Steinbeck shows his thinking about acceptable killing.

In addition, Carlson is another character who thinks killing, which could be benefit for the victim, is acceptable. “The way I’d shoot him, he wouldn’t feel anything. I’d put the gun right here.” (p.45) Candy’s old dog was feeling pain because of the disease he had. The dog had no teeth, and felt pain because of the rheumatism. Carlson suggested Candy to kill the dog, but when Candy said he can’t, he told that he is going to shoot the dog behind its neck which wouldn’t give it any pain. Killing the old dog wouldn’t give any pain at the moment, and it would stop the dog’s pain which also could occur in the future. Carlson thought killing the dog is actually benefit for the dog. Also, for the last concern, Carlson killed the dog without any pain. Thereupon, Carlson’s behavior and his last consideration for the dog are the reflection of Steinbeck’s idea of killing.

Unlike other characters who think killing for others is acceptable, Curley accepts killing which was actually for himself. Curley’s killing is acceptable as others’ but it is acceptable for other way. “I'm gonna shoot the guts outa that big bastard myself, even if I only got one hand. I'm gonna get 'im." (p.98) When people found out that Lennie killed Curley’s wife’s dead body, Curley got mad. However, he was not mad about his wife’s death, he just got mad because of Lennie. His hatred toward Lennie exploded when he figured out that Lennie touched his own property. Thus, even Slim said Curley has to stay with his wife, he refused to stay with the dead body, and he actually went to kill Lennie. He willed that he could kill Lennie with enormous pain that he could give to Lennie by shooting Lennie’s guts which could be very painful, and as time goes, the pain will become harder, and harder. Even though the purpose of killing was totally different from other characters, Curley also received the idea of acceptable killing. His willing to kill Lennie is for ostentation of his power, and for punishing the person who touched his own property. He was very radical person who wants to kill Lennie. However, he accepted killing of Lennie, while he didn’t accept Lennie’s killing. This shows that Curley only accepts his killing, not others’ which damage his reputation. Although this seems to be very selfish, but it still reflects Steinbeck’s thinking.

In conclusion, Slim, Carlson, and Curley are the characters who remarkably reflect Steinbeck’s thinking. Steinbeck shows his idea of killing which is that some killing can be justified. Slim and Carlson killed dogs for protection of other puppies and people, and also for not harming the victims. Unlike Slim and Carlson, Curley is radical person who is willing to kill somebody who damages his reputation and showing off his power. However, even though Slim, Carlson, and Curley’s idea and purpose of the killing are different, all of them think killing is acceptable. Through these characters’ quotes and behaviors, Steinbeck’s conception of killing is receivable, is shown.